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N THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant : Gernot M. HIRSE
Serial No. : **09/994,983**
Filed : November 26, 2001
For : **FLOOR MOP**
Art Unit : To Be Assigned
Examiner : To Be Assigned

Assistant Commissioner for
Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231

Dated

3/22/02

Signature

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PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

SIR:

Prior to examining the above-referenced application, please enter the following amendments.

IN THE CLAIMS:

On the first page of the claims, first line, change "What is claimed is:" to --WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:--

Cancel claims 1-10.

Insert new claims 11-21.

--11. (New) A floor mop comprising: two carrier plates connected to a common carrier center piece in jointed manner and which carry an absorbent mop covering, a mop handle affixed on the carrier center piece, and a wringer slide which is movable along the mop handle, the wringer

slide having two rigid wringer arms, each of which is movably connected with the back of one of the two carrier plates, wherein the mop handle (1) is connected with the carrier center piece (3) by way of a cardan joint (2), and ends (11a) of the wringer arms (11) can each be brought into engagement with a guide surface (17) on the back of the carrier plate (5) assigned to them, in each instance, and the wringer slide (9) is guided on the mop handle (1) so that it cannot rotate.

12. (New) The floor mop according to Claim 11, wherein the two carrier plates (5) are moved into their extended position by a spring device (18).

13. (New) The floor mop according to Claim 11, wherein the guide surface (17) of each carrier plate (5) rises to an elevation (17b) that projects upwards from the back of the carrier plate (5), in a direction towards the free plate end (5a).

14. (New) The floor mop according to Claim 13, wherein the guide surface (17) decreases in height on the side of the elevation (17b) facing the free plate end (5a), towards the carrier plate (5).

15. (New) The floor mop according to Claim 11, wherein the end (11a) of each wringer arm (11) carries a rotating roller element (12, 15, 20).

16. (New) The floor mop according to Claim 15, wherein the roller element is a roller (12) that is mounted to rotate on the wringer arm (11).

17. (New) The floor mop according to Claim 15, wherein the roller element is a ball (15) that is held to rotate in a recess (14) of the wringer arm (11).

18. (New) The floor mop according to Claim 15, wherein the roller element is a wheel (20) provided with recesses (19) on its circumference, which

engages with at least one projection (21, 22) on the back of the carrier plate (5).

19. (New) The floor mop according to Claim 11, wherein the end (11a) of each wringer arm (11) has a pressure surface (16) with a convex curvature.

20. (New) The floor mop according to Claim 15, wherein the guide surface (17) has a flat longitudinal groove (17a) with a concave cross-section.

21. (New) The floor mop according to Claim 19, wherein the guide surface (17) has a flat longitudinal groove (17a) with a concave cross-section.--

REMARKS

Original claims 1-10 have been cancelled and rewritten as new claims 11-21 to conform them to U.S. Patent Office rules. After entry of this Amendment, claims 11-21 are pending.

Early favorable action on the merits is respectfully requested.

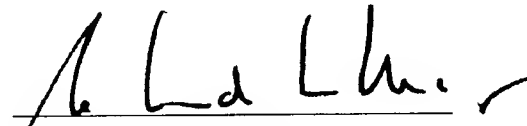
Respectfully submitted,

KENYON & KENYON

Dated:

3/22/02

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